

**DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE  
AND ADOPTION OF EXISTING  
ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT**

**Description of current proposal:** Georgia Strait Crossing Project. The proposed action is the Georgia Strait Crossing (GSX) Pipeline. The U.S. portion of the pipeline is part of a larger project jointly sponsored by British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) and Williams Gas Pipeline Company. The project calls for the design, construction, and operation of two interconnecting natural gas pipelines, one in Canada and one in the U.S. The pipelines will transport natural gas from Sumas, Washington, to Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The pipeline is a component of the proposed Vancouver Island Generation Project (VIGP), also proposed by BC Hydro, that would build a gas-fired power plant on Vancouver Island. The GSX pipeline would supply gas to the power plant.

**Proponent:** Georgia Strait Crossing Pipeline LP (GSX-US)/BC Hydro

**Location of current proposal:** The GSX-US portion of the pipeline would transport natural gas from existing pipeline systems at the United States-Canada border near Sumas, Washington, through Whatcom and San Juan Counties to an interconnection with the GSX-Canada pipeline at Boundary Pass in the Strait of Georgia. The GSX-Canada portion of the pipeline would extend 37.2 miles (27.5 miles offshore and 9.7 miles onshore) from its interconnection with the GSX-US pipeline at Boundary Pass to an interconnection with an existing pipeline operated by Terasen Gas on Vancouver Island south of Duncan.

**Title of document being adopted:** Georgia Strait Crossing Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**Agency that prepared document adopted:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

**Date adopted document was prepared:** July 2002

**Description of document being adopted:** FEIS for same proposal, the entire document including response to comments and appendices is being adopted

**If the document being adopted has been challenged (WAC 197-11-630), please describe:**  
An appeal has been filed challenging the adequacy of the FERC NEPA FEIS

**The document is available to be read at:** Department of Ecology, Northwest Regional Office, 3190 160th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA, 98008-5452

**EIS Required:** The lead agency has determined this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. To meet the requirements of RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c), the lead agency is adopting the document described above. Under WAC 197-11-360, there will be no scoping process for the adopt EIS. We have identified and adopted this document as being appropriate for this proposal after independent review. We have determined that a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is necessary in addition to the adopted document.

**Name of agency adopting document:** Washington Department of Ecology

**Contact person:** Tiffany Yelton, email – tyel461@ecy.wa.gov

**Responsible official:** Ray Hellwig, Northwest Regional Director

**Address:** 3190 160th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA, 98008-5452

**Date:** January 20, 2004

**Signature:**

